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in it, and a horseshoe on one side of the cavity, and a broken glass bottle on the other." Both horseshoe and bottle, I presume, found their way there in modern times.

The subject of our present notice was also doomed; but, on the night preceding the day intended for commencing operations upon it, Christy strolled out from his cottage, and, looking towards the scene of his next day's projected labour, saw *a light* in the direction of "the big stone," there being low marshy ground in the neighbourhood immediately beyond. He returned to his home, and came to the wise conclusion, from all that he had seen, that it would be dangerous to interfere further with these "sacred stones." So, after one of these primitive monuments having been blasted, and another buried, to the fortuitous appearance and the lucky intervention of the *ignis fatuus* we are at the present day indebted for the preservation of the singular vestige of our nation's early history which I have feebly endeavoured to lay before the Academy.

Several raths or forts are in the immediate vicinity; and tradition states that there are also several subterranean caves, which I have not had either the time or the opportunity to find out or to investigate.

The Secretary brought up the following recommendation of Council :—

"That the sum of £50 be granted for the purchase of Antiquities, the arrangement and registration of articles in the Museum, and for other matters connected with the department of Antiquities."

The question having been put, it was moved as an amendment, by Professor Haughton, and seconded by Professor Jellett—

"That it be recommended to the Council to omit all the words following the word 'Museum'".

A division being called for, it was found that ten members voted for the amendment, and twenty-three against it; it was therefore declared lost.

The original motion was then put, and carried.

Read—Letters of acknowledgment from Professor Clausius and Mr. Albert Way, on their election as Honorary Members.

The following presentations were made :—

"Limerick, its History and Antiquities, Ecclesiastical, Civil, and Military, from the Earliest Ages," by Maurice Lenihan: from the Author.

"Astronomical and Meteorological Observations made at the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, in the Year 1863," Vol. XXIII.: from the Radcliffe Trustees.

"Statistics of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; May, 1866 :" from Alexander Thom, Esq.

"Cassell's Illustrated History of England," Vols. III. and IV. : from J. Godkin, Esq.

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 1866.

Sir W. R. WILDE, M. D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

THE following gentlemen were elected members of the Academy:— David R. Edgeworth, Esq., and John O'Hagan, Esq.

Sir W. R. WILDE read the following paper:—

ON THE BATTLE OF MOYTURA.

THE author brought under the notice of the meeting the first of a series of communications he was about to make to the Academy upon the topography of the Battle-fields of Moytura, and the monuments still standing upon those memorable localities, and which were some of the earliest places referred to in the Irish annals.

He mentioned that there were two battle-fields of this name, one was the northern or the "Moytura of the Fomorians," in the parish of Kilmacatrany, in the county of Sligo, adjoining the north-western end of the county of Roscommon, and extending from Lough Arrow to the strand at Ballysadare; but with which he would not deal on the present occasion. The other, on the southern site, or "Moytura Conga"—of which Sir William exhibited a large map, and pointed out the different localities on it—occupies the western extremity of the great plain at the junction of the counties of Mayo and Galway, extending from the Fairy Hill of Knockmaha, near Tuam, to Benlevi, the first of the mountain range, which, rising from the waters of Loughs Corrib and Mask, gradually ascend and stretch into the Partry, Joyce Country, and Connemara mountains. This was the particular locality to which he proposed to call the attention of the meeting, and said he hoped on a future occasion to bring forward illustrations of the most remarkable of the very ancient monuments which crowd around the picturesque village of Cong, and occupy the northern sloping banks of Lough Corrib, and the eastern borders of Lough Mask. This great plain is nearly sixteen miles long, and the monuments occupy a space of about five miles in breadth at its western end. It was originally called Magh Nia, or Nemeadh, and in some works Magh Itha, before the celebrated battle from which it took its historic name; but at present it goes by the Irish name of Ath Readh, or the unobstructed plain. Sir William said:—

Prior to the date assigned by the Four Masters, A. M. 3303, for the battle of Moytura Conga, the entries in our annals are comparatively few, meagre, and of very doubtful chronology, and consist chiefly of notices of cosmical phenomena, colonizations, pestilences, the clearing of